

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

OPIC-03 XMB-02 AID-05 STR-04 IGA-02 /114 W

-----075059 241424Z /43

R 241245Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0879

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0529

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: EWWT, XF

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0515, ALEXANDRIA 0502

1. FINAL COMMUNIQUE FROM 41ST ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL CONFERENCE
GAVE DEGREE OF PROMINENCE TO "FOREIGN ANTI-BOYCOTT LAWS". WE

NOTED (ALEX 0515, PARA 3) THAT LANGUAGE RE BAN ON TRADE WITH COUNTRIES PASSING ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION WAS A BIT OBSCURE. THIS WAS BECAUSE, BY THE NATURE OF ARABIC LANGUAGE CONSTRUCTION, VERY CAREFUL NOTE MUST BE TAKEN OF ANTECEDENTS OF PRONOUNS.

2. WE ARE NOW CONVINCED (AND LOCAL BUSINESS SOURCES WHOSE STRONG COMMERCIAL TIES WITH U.S. GIVE THEM INTEREST IN THIS AGREE) THAT LANGUAGE AND INTENT OF COMMISSIONERS' DECISION IS TO BAN TRADE WITH "ANY COMPANY OR ENTERPRISE" WHICH REFUSES TO DO BUSINESS WITH ARABS BY REASON OF ANTI-BOYCOTT LAWS OF ITS OWN NATION, NOT A TOTAL BAN AGAINST ALL COMPANIES OF SUCH A NATION.

3. TEXT OF PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS, IN TRANSLATION AGREED UPON BY THREE FSL'S AND TWO AMERICAN ARABISTS, READS WITH WORDS IN PARENTHESES OURS:

"SECOND: THE CONGRESS IN CLOSING ITS SESSIONS HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CONFIRM THE FOLLOWING:

(1) ANY FOREIGN LAWS ISSUED UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ZIONIST BLACKMAIL AND DIRECTED AGAINST THE ARAB BOYCOTT WILL NOT LIMIT ITS (THE BOYCOTT'S) EFFECTIVENESS BUT INSTEAD WILL BE A MOTIVE FOR GREATER OPPOSITION TO THE GOALS OF THESE (FOREIGN) LAWS.

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(2) THE ARAB BOYCOTT HAS NOT AND WILL NOT INTERFERE IN ANY WAY IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT WILL NOT ALLOW FOREIGN LAWS TO DIVERT THE COURSE OF ITS (BOYCOTT LAW'S OR OFFICE'S) WORK."

COMMENT: VERB (LAHD) TRANSLATED AS "DIVERT" HAS VERY STRONG RELIGIOUS OVERTONES FOR ARABS SUCH AS "TO ABANDON ONE'S FAITH".
END COMMENT

"THE FINAL ANSWER TO ANY AMERICAN ORGANIZATION OR COMPANY OR ANY OTHERS (FOREIGN COMPANIES) WHICH REFUSE (TO OBEY) REGULATIONS OR TO RESPECT EXISTING NATIONAL LAWS IN ARAB COUNTRIES, GIVING AS AN EXCUSE ITS (THE COMPANY'S) OWN COUNTRY'S LAW, IS TO DEPRIVE IT (THE COMPANY) IMMEDIATELY OF ANY CONTACT AND ANY (BUSINESS?) ACTIVITY OF ANY KIND IN ALL ARAB STATES AND DEPRIVE IT (THE COMPANY) OF RAW MATERIALS - UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES - FROM ANY ARAB COUNTRY".

4. NEITHER IN THIS WORDING, NOR IN THE WORDING OF EARLIER PARAGRAPH ON US LEGISLATION (ALEX 0515 PARA 2-B) NOR IN JUNE 16 STATEMENT (ALEX 0502, PARA 5), DOES BOYCOTT COMMISSION GO SO FAR AS TO THREATEN TOTAL "ANTI-BOYCOTT BOYCOTT" OF ALL RPT ALL

BUSINESS CONTACT WITH COUNTRY LEGISLATING AGAINST TYPE OF TRADE RESTRAINT WHICH ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL REPRESENTS AND WHICH DAMASCUS MEETING OF ARAB CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN MAY APPARENTLY CALLED FOR. PROBLEM STILL REMAINS THAT LANGUAGE USED COULD, PRESUMABLY, BE TWISTED BY RADICALS TO COVER THEIR CONTENTION THAT ARABS SHOULD SUBSTITUTE WHEREVER POSSIBLE THIRD COUNTRY TECHNOLOGY AND GOODS.

5. HOWEVER, WORDING OF THIS KEY SECTION AND OTHER EVIDENCE DURING BOYCOTT MEETING SUGGESTS TO US THAT MODERATES DID KEEP CONTROL OF SESSION AND DID PREVAIL AGAINST RADICALS SEEKING CONFRONTATION WITH US ON ANTI-BOYCOTT ISSUE. IT WILL NOW BE UP TO US AND OTHERS CONCERNED TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION AND CLARIFY SITUATION OF US COMPANIES UNDER THIS NEW LEGISLATION IN MANNER SO CONFIDENTIAL

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AS TO MAINTAIN HIGHEST POSSIBLE AMERICAN COMMERCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL PRESENCE IN ARAB WORLD.
CHASE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALEXAN00529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770226-0860
Format: TEL
From: ALEXANDRIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770624/aaaaaueb.tel
Line Count: 139
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6fe8ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ALEXANDRIA 515, 77 ALEXANDRIA 502
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2049119
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL
TAGS: EWWT, XF, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6fe8ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009